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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10
NSAE-00 ICA-11 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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----------032484 102317Z /45
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, EAGR

SUBJECT: OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME: SOUTH AFRICAN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

REF: PARIS 23252

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES MISSION'S CONCERN ABOUT SCANDANAVIAN VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP IN OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SCHEME. PRECEDENT OF BARRING PARTICIPATION IN STRICTLY TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FRUIT AND VEGETABLE
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SCHEME ON POLITICAL GROUNDS COULD COME BACK TO HAUNT US REPEATEDLY AS OECD EXPANDS CONTACTS WITH NON-MEMBERS. TO DATE, THE OECD HAS BEEN AMONG LEAST POLITICIZED OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BODIES, A FACTOR WHICH HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN OECD'S SUCCESS. WE WOULD REGRET ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN AN INCREASED POLITIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

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2. HOWEVER, GIVEN U.S. DEROGATION FROM APPLICATION OF SCHEME STANDARDS, WE HAVE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE REASON TO TAKE LEAD IN PROMOTING SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP. MISSION SHOULD, AS APPROPRIATE, MAKE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT PRECEDENT KNOWN TO OTHER DELEGATIONS. BY THE TIME SUBJECT IS AGAIN

RAISED AT G-7 MEETING, WE HOPE LARGER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE WITH THE SCANDANAVIANS TO LIFT THEIR VETO AND ALLOW SOUTH AFRICANS TO QUIETLY ENTER THE SCHEME.

3. WE ARE PUZZLED BY REFERENCE (PARA 4B REFTEL) TO UN DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA. VARIETY OF QUESTIONS INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICA, SUCH AS APARTHEID, WESTERN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, ETC., ARE REGULARLY DEBATED BY UNGA, AND WE ASSUME THAT FORTHCOMING 33RD UNGA WILL BE NO EXCEPTION. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SPECIAL DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA COMING UP THIS FALL. MISSION MIGHT ASK THOSE DELEGATIONS WHICH RAISED THIS MATTER, WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND AND POINT OUT THAT WE SEE NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AT UNGA THIS FALL ON SOUTH AFRICA AND ISSUE AT HAND. VANCE

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